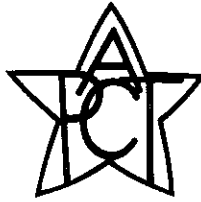


Personal Attendant Coalition of Texas



#61

Late Backup

February 2, 2012

To: Mayor Lee Leffingwell, Mayor Pro Tem Cole and City Council Members,

Personal Attendant Coalition of Texas, (PACT), is against the proposed increase in Austin Energy electric rates. PACT is a grassroots coalition of personal attendants and their supporters, working in home and community based service programs. PACT provides a voice for the 275,000 statewide personal attendants to strengthen the wages, benefits, dignity and position in the community whereby strengthening the independence of aging Texans and people with disabilities.

Personal attendants live on a very fixed income. Many personal attendants make just over \$7.25 per hour. They are single mothers and the average age is 51 years. If a personal attendant works at 39 1/2 hours per week, they would make \$14,891 dollars annually. The reality for most personal attendants is that they make considerably less than \$14,000 per year and many receive the benefits of state and federally funded assistance programs.

For this reason, PACT cannot support this proposed change. It would create a hardship for personal attendants as well as the people they serve.

For an Equitable Society,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine R. Cranston', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Catherine R. Cranston
PACT Organizer
1640A E. 2nd Street, #100
Austin, Texas 78702
512.442.0252